

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IO-03 SAM-01 NSC-07 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 INRE-00 SSO-00 DODE-00

EB-03 H-01 L-02 PM-03 PRS-01 SP-02 USIE-00 DRC-01

/064 W

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O 110912Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5852

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 6002

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, JA

SUBJECT: ROK-JAPAN RELATIONS

REF: (A) SEOUL 5989; (B) STATE 198225

1. IN CONVERSATION LATE AFTERNOON SEPT 11, FONMIN KIM DONG-JO INFORMED CHARGE THAT, FOLLOWING THEIR CONVERSATION THAT MORNING, HE HAD DISCUSSED SITUATION AGAIN WITH PRESIDENT PARK. PRESIDENT HAD LISTENED CAREFULLY TO FONMIN'S EXPLANATION DEPT POSITION (REF B) AND HAD ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN AT LACK OF RESPONSE FROM JAPANESE TO ROK POSITION OF SEPT 10. WITH REGARD TO POSSIBILITY OF MOVEMENT FROM ROK SIDE, FONMIN SAID PRESIDENT HAD BEEN "MOST STUBBORN" ABOUT NEED FOR DIRECT REFERENCE TO CHOSEN SOREN IN LETTER FROM JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER BUT HAD FINALLY BEEN PERSUADED TO MAKE CONCILIATORY MOVE.

2. FONMIN SAID PRESIDENT HAD THEREFORE AUTHORIZED FONMIN TO TRANSMIT NEW SUGGESTION FOR TEXT OF JAPANESE LETTER
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WHICH WOULD OMIT REFERENCE TO CHOSEN SOREN AND WOULD ALSO

SOFTEN KOREAN DEMAND FOR JAPANESE ACCEPTANCE OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT. TEXT BEING SENT SEPTTEL. FONMIN SAID THAT ROKG FELT IT COULD NOT TRANSMIT THIS SUGGESTED TEXT DIRECTLY TO JAPANESE SINCE GOJ HAD NOT RESPONDED TO LATEST ROKG POSITION. HE THEREFORE REQUESTED THAT CHARGE TRANSMIT IT TO WASHINGTON AND TOKYO AND THAT USG URGE THAT GOJ GIVE TEXT MOST SERIOUS CONSIDERATION. HE SAID THAT THIS CONCILIATORY GESTURE REPRESENTED "FINAL POSITION" OF ROKG.

3. IN DISCUSSING NEW ROK PROPOSAL, FONMIN STRESSED THERE ONE IMPORTANT PROVISIO WITH RESPECT TO PARA THREE; THAT IS, IN RECOGNITION OF ROK WILLINGNESS TO DROP EXPLICIT REFERENCE TO CHOSEN SOREN, GOJ MUST PROVIDE ASSURANCES THAT GOJ ENVOY WILL BE PREPARED TO MAKE GOJ INTENTIONS WITH RESPECT CHOSEN SOREN CLEAR AND WILL AGREE TO WRITTEN AND INITIALLED RECORD OF THIS ASPECT HIS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT.

4. WE FEEL JAPANESE SHOULD BE AMENABLE TO PARA ONE, WITH POSSIBLE CHANGE OF WORDING TO REFLECT FACT THAT REVOLVER WAS "STOLEN FROM" RATHER THAN "BELONGED TO" JAPANESE POLICE. RE PARA TWO, FONMIN SAID SECOND SENTENCE MEANS THAT IF THOROUGH JAPANESE INVESTIGATION RESULTS IN NO INDICTABLE OFFENSE UNDER JAPANESE LAW, ROKG WOULD ACCEPT THIS, ALTHOUGH IT OBVIOUSLY FEELS THAT INVESTIGATION SHOULD REVEAL SOME SUCH OFFENSE.

5. CHARGE EMPHASIZED THAT HE HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS WHICH WOULD INDICATE USG COULD SUPPORT TEXT PROVIDED BY FONMIN. CHARGE AGREED, HOWEVER, IMMEDIATELY TO TRANSMIT TEXT AND FONMIN'S COMMENTS THEREON TO DEPT AND US EMBASSY TOKYO.

6. COMMENT: NEW TEXT REPRESENTS SIGNIFICANT MOVEMENT IN RIGHT DIRECTION. KEY IS JAPANESE ACCEPTANCE OF CONCEPT OF AGREED RECORD, AND SATISFACTORY ORAL ASSURANCES FROM ENVOY. SUGGEST THAT EMBASSY TOKYO URGENTLY CONVEY TEXT AND COMMENTS HEREIN TO GOJ AND THAT DEPT URGE GOJ DO ALL POSSIBLE TO REACH COMPROMISE. CHARGE HAS INFORMALLY INFORMED JAPANESE HERE OF WHAT HAS TRANSPIRED.
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